



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460**

Office of Public Affairs

September 28, 2016

Sam Pearson  
Environment & Energy Publishing  
122 C Street NW Suite 722  
Washington, DC 20017

Subject: Freedom of Information Act Request No. EPA-HQ-2015-003548

Dear Mr. Pearson:

This letter responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) addressed to EPA on January 26, 2016, in which you sought, "Any and all internal emails, communications strategy documents, memos or letters produced in the Office of Public Affairs regarding the direct final rule and the proposed rule titled, "Administrative Wage Garnishment; Direct Final Rule" from June 1, 2014 to September 15, 2014.

EPA has concluded its search for records responsive to your request and uploaded those records to the FOIAonline system. You will soon receive an email from the FOIAonline system notifying you that the records are available for your review and the direct link thereto. However, some responsive records have been withheld in whole or in part as redacted documents with information being partially released. The information being withheld in whole or in part has been determined to be exempt from the mandatory disclosure requirements pursuant to FOIA exemption (5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(5). This exemption includes documents that embody the "deliberative process" of the agency.

If you have any concerns regarding this initial release, you may appeal in writing to the National Freedom of Information Act Officer at:

Records, FOIA, and Privacy Branch  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (2822T)  
Washington, D.C. 20460  
Fax: (202) 566-2147  
Email: [hq.foia@epa.gov](mailto:hq.foia@epa.gov)

Please note that correspondence mailed through only the United States Postal Service can be delivered to the address above. If you want to deliver your appeal in person, via courier service, or via an overnight delivery service, you must address your correspondence to 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 6416J, Washington, D.C. 20001.

Your written appeal must be received no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter and should include the request number listed above. The EPA will not consider appeals received after the 90 calendar-day limit. In addition, appeals received after 5 p.m. Eastern time are considered as having been received the next business day. For the quickest possible handling, the subject line of your email or the appeal letter and its envelope should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Additionally, you may seek dispute-resolution services from the EPA's FOIA public liaison at [hq.foia@epa.gov](mailto:hq.foia@epa.gov) or (202) 566-1667 or from the National Archives and Records Administration's Office of Government Information Services. You may contact the Office of Government Information Services with an email to [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); by calling toll free (877) 684-6448 or (301) 837-1996; with a fax to (301) 837-0348; or by mail to National Archives and Records Administration, Office of Government Information Services, 8610 Adelphi Road, Room 2510, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.

Sincerely,



George Hull

Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator

cc: Jonathan Newton